

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/626,123

Examiner

Eduardo Colon Santana

Applicant(s)

MAEKI, AKIRA

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment filed on 6/09/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16 and 20-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20060816.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


LINCOLN DONOVAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 6/09/2006 has been received and entered in the case.

Drawings

2. The replacement sheets of drawings were received on 6/09/2006. These sheets of drawings are acceptable.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steve Y. Cho on August 15, 2006.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel claim 19.

In claim 20, change the dependency to claim 13.

In claim 1 line 11, insert -- and updates the first mapping information when a given obstacle is encountered by the automaton while performing the task within the first area; and re-routes the automaton based on the updated first mapping information. --- After "points;".

In claim 8 line 13, insert -- and updates the first mapping information when a given obstacle is encountered by the automaton

while performing the task within the first area; and re-routes the automaton based on the updated first mapping information. --- After "area;".

In claim 13 line 11, insert -- and updating the first mapping information when a given obstacle is encountered by the automaton while performing the task within the first area; and re-routing the automaton based on the updated first mapping information. --- After "route;".

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-16 and 20-24 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

CLAIMS 1, 8 and 13: In view of the limitation the prior art does not disclose alone or in combination an automaton or a method of using an automaton having a controller, a memory; a motor and a communication interface to communicate with a plurality of anchor points being provided within a given environment and a position information enabling the generation of a mapping information so as to perform a task within a first area defined by the plurality of anchor points and updating a first mapping information when a given obstacle is encountered by the automaton while performing the task within the first area, and re-routing the automaton based on the updated first mapping information.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing

delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eduardo Colon Santana whose telephone number is (571) 272-2060. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 6:30am - 5:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lincoln Donovan can be reached on (571) 272-2800 X.37. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval system. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center at 866-217-9197. If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 or 571-272-1000.



Eduardo Colon Santana
Examiner
Art Unit 2837

ECS
August 16, 2006



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER